

Farm's holiday market showcases Yankee ingenuity

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By Lisa Reisman

GUILFORD — Debbie DeLillo worked as a picture framer for years before rheumatoid arthritis took its toll. She retired. She felt at loose ends. Then she saw a bird feeder made from a recycled wine bottle on Pinterest. It intrigued her. She was a wine aficionado. She had a certain knack for painting. Her creative juices hadn't been hydrated for a while.

"Eventually I put my own twist on it," said the Northford resident, whose whimsical, brightly painted bird feeders will be displayed among the wares of the 34 artisans at the Dudley Farm Museum Open House and Holiday Market on Saturday, Dec. 1 and Sunday, Dec. 2, as well as Saturday, Dec. 8.

To hear Market Master Martha Haeseler tell it, DeLillo's resourceful way of inspiring (non-virtual) tweets in her backyard is of a piece with the eco-friendly Yankee ingenuity that will be exhibited on both floors of the historic Munger barn.

"Many of our vendors include



Sassy the goat from East Hampton's Flat Brook Farm from whose milk the Rinaldo family makes variously scented goat milk soap available at the Dudley Farm holiday market.

nature and recycling in their hand-made artisanal crafts," she said. "Their products relate to what they grow, the animals they tend and, like Debbie DeLillo, repurposing what's around them."

Take Liz and Rick Rinaldo's soothing goat milk soap from their own goats on East Hampton's Flat Brook

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Contributed photos

A Debbie DeLillo bird feeder made from a recycled wine bottle that will be available at the Dudley Farm holiday market.

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Farm. With a range of scents, from invigorating lemon verbena to skin-enhancing charcoal lavender, they make the perfect stocking stuffer, said Haeseler.

Then there are the hats knitted from yarn that Carol Gilbert spins from the resident alpacas at her resident alpacas at her family's Double "G" Alpaca Farm in Portland. And the eye-catching barn quilts that Portia Amendola and Margaret Rozear hand-paint on repurposed wood. Not to mention Janet Dudley's handmade evergreen wreathes and greens.

It's not only crafts that are home-grown at the holiday market.

Barbara Hammarlund will be offering naturally raised meat, sausage, and eggs from Half Mile Acres farm in North Guilford.



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Martha Haeseler's moss table-top trees decorated with shells and other natural items.

There's also Buster Scranton's famed maple syrup, maple nuts and maple candy. And traditional cinnamon and cardamom breads, cinnamon rolls, and platters of holiday cookies from Hometown Bakery's Rob and Lisa Ostop.

Adding to the merriment—and hot chocolate from Nathan Bryant's Lem-oNates—will be festive music from the Guilford High

School carolers and lively strains from the Dudley Farm String Band.

If there's anything that typifies the holiday market, it is perhaps rising star Anna May's inventive take on traditional folk music, which she'll share on Saturday, Dec. 1 at 11 am.

Sure, the mode of expression is different, but it's not so dissimilar from DeLillo's recycled wine

bottle bird feeders.

"It's about taking what's already here and figuring out how to make it useful and appealing and resonant with our world," said DeLillo, who also makes bee feeders out of Mason jars.

Wine not?

▶▶ The Dudley Farm Museum Open House and Holiday Market will take place on Saturday, Dec. 1, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 2, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.; and Saturday, Dec. 8, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. at 2351 Durham Road (Route 77), Guilford.

▶▶ For more examples of Debbie DeLillo's bird feeders, visit homeforbirdsandbees.etsy.com. To order goat milk soap or to learn more about it, visit www.flatbrookfarm.webs.com. For more information on barn quilts, visit Back Roads LLC on Facebook and backroads.etsy.com. Information on Anna May may be found at annamaymusic.com.